

IN THE CLAIMS

1-26. (new) (canceled)

27. (new) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases, and urological diseases in a mammal, comprising:

- i) contacting a test compound with a RNPEP-like polypeptide; and
- ii) detecting binding of said test compound to said RNPEP-like polypeptide.

28. (new) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal, comprising:

- i) determining the activity of a RNPEP-like polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound or in the absence of said test compound; and
- ii) determining the activity of said polypeptide at a different concentration of said test compound.

29. (new) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal comprising:

i) determining the activity of a RNPEP-like polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound; and

ii) determining the activity of a RNPEP-like polypeptide at the presence of a compound known to be a regulator of a RNPEP-like polypeptide.

30. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of contacting is in or at the surface of a cell.

31. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

32. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

33. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

34. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.

35. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.

36. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the polypeptide is attached to a solid support.

37. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the compound is attached to a solid support.

38. (new) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal comprising:

i) contacting a test compound with a RNPEP-like polynucleotide; and

ii) detecting binding of said test compound to said RNPEP-like polynucleotide.

39. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.

40. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the contacting step is in or at the surface of a cell.

41. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the contacting step is in a cell-free system.

42. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein polynucleotide is coupled to a detectable label.

43. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the test compound is coupled to a detectable label.

44. (new) A method of diagnosing a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal, comprising:

i) determining the amount of a RNPEP-like polynucleotide in a sample taken from said mammal; and

ii) determining the amount of RNPEP-like polynucleotide in healthy and/or diseased mammals.

45. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal comprising a therapeutic agent which regulates the activity of a RNPEP-like polypeptide, wherein said therapeutic agent is

i) a small molecule,

- ii) an RNA molecule,
- iii) an antisense oligonucleotide,
- iv) a polypeptide,
- v) an antibody, or
- vi) a ribozyme.

46. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal, comprising a RNPEP-like polynucleotide.

47. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer, gastroenterological diseases, inflammation, hematological diseases, neurological diseases and urological diseases in a mammal, comprising a RNPEP-like polypeptide.